

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02287 051519Z

63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OPR-02 SY-04 A-01 SCCT-02 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00

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R 051423Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

DIA

UNCLAS LISBON 2287

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, MC, PT

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS MILITARY UNREST IN MACAU AND
TIMOR

SUMMARY: DEMONSTRATION OF 200 LOWER-LEVEL OFFICERS AND
SOLDIERS IN MACAU HAS LED TO DISMISSAL OF TERRITORY'S
MILITARY GOVERNOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF. JUNTA DELEGATES NOW IN
MACAU HAVE TAKEN OVER FROM OUSTED MILITARY AND HAVE SAID
GOVERNMENT WANTS ELECTIONS WITHIN YEAR TO CHOOSE REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF PEOPLE. UNREST AMONG MILITARY IN TIMOR ALSO
REPORTED. REFERENDUM ON LATTER COLONY'S FUTURE SET FOR
NEXT MARCH, ACCORDING TO AFP DISPATCH. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02287 051519Z

1. ACCORDING TO LISBON PRESS REPORTS SOME 200 LOWER-

RANKING PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICERS AND MEN POSTED IN MACAU STAGED NOSIY BARRACKS PROTEST JUNE 1 ACCUSING MACAU MILITARY COMMAND OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF COMMISSARY FUNDS AND OF UTILIZING SOLDIERS IN CIVILIAN WORK. DEMONSTRATION LASTED SIX HOURS WITH SOLDIERS REFUSING TO OBEY ORDERS OF SUPERIORS TO DISPERSE. SOME DEMONSTRATORS ALLEGEDLY SHOUTED "WE WANT TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL," AND CALLED SUPERIORS "THIEVES" AND "BOURGEOIS."

2. PRESS SAYS DEMONSTRATION "ALMOST OUT OF HAND" UNTIL ARRIVAL ON SCENE OF MAJ. REBELO GONCALVES, ONE OF TWO NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA DELEGATES RECENTLY SENT FROM LISBON TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION. (DELEGATES ARE FIRST LISBON EMISSARIES TO VISIT COLONY SINCE APRIL 25 REVOLT.) DELEGATE APPARENTLY CALMED CROWD WITH PROMISE LISTEN TO THEIR SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS.

3. TWO DAYS LATER GENERAL COSTA GOMES, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, ORDERED DISMISSAL OF COL. MANUEL MESQUITA BORGES, MILITARY COMMANDER OF MACAU, AND INTERIM C.O. MACA TAU GENERAL STAFF, MAJOR LAURENIO ALVES, WHO ARE TO RETURN TO METROPOLE. JUNTA DELEGATE GONCALVES HAS TEMPORARILY REPLACED BORGES AS MILITARY CO.

4. IN LAST FEW DAYS JUNTA DELEGATES HAVE BEEN MAKING ROUNDS OF MACAU POLITICANS, LEADERS CHINESE COMMUNITY (INCLUDING PEKING REPRESENTATIVE HO YIN), AND BUSINESS LEADERS, AND HAVE STATED THAT JUNTA SUPPORTS CONTINUANCE OF GENERAL NOBRE DE CARVALHO AS GOVERNOR GENERAL OF PROVINCE. (CARVALHO HAS BEEN GOVERNOR SINCE 1966 AND ENJOYS SUPPORT OF HO YIN.) DELEGATES ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNMENT WANTS FREE ELECTIONS IN TERRITORY WITHIN ONE YEAR TO CHOOSE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES WHO REFLECT WILL OF PEOPLE.

5. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN MACAU DELEGATES PASSED THROUGH TIMOR, WHERE ACCORDING TO LISBON WEEKLY EXPRESSO, LOWER-LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE ALSO UPSET WITH TERRITORY'S MILITARY LEADER COLONEL FERNANDO ALDEIA, WHO HAS ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO RESTRICT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN RANKS. SITUATION AMONG MILITARY THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02287 051519Z

DESCRIBED AS TENSE, AND UNSPECIFIED CONFLICTS HAVE SUPPOSEDLY ARISEN BETWEEN TIMORESE AND CHINESE POPULATION. ACCORDING TO AN AGENCE FRANCE PRESS REPORT OUT OF JAKARTA (WHICH CITES COL. ALDEIA AS SOURCE) PORTUGUESE WILL HOLD A REFERENDUM IN MARCH 1975 TO DETERMINE FUTURE OF TIMOR. RULES GOVERNING REFERENDUM WILL BE MADE KNOWN WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

6. COMMENT: REPORTS OF UNREST AMONG PORTUGUESE MINORITY IN

MACAU AND TIMOR HAVE BEEN SURFACING IN LISBON PRESS IN LAST FEW WEEKS, AND TWO EMISSARIES FROM MACAU DEMOCRATIC CENTER RECENTLY VISITED METROPOLE TO TRY TO CONVINCE JUNTA THAT ALL IS NOT RIGHT IN THAT ENCLAVE. THEY HAVE COMPLAINED THAT NONE OF THE REFORMS TAKING PLACE IN LISBON HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN MACAU. VISIT OF DELEGATES TO MACAU DESIGNED CLARIFY SITUATION AND ENSURE CONTINUANCE OF THE TRANQUILITY SOUGHT BY LOCAL CHINESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. LISBON APPARENTLY HAS DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT MACAU IS A SPECIAL CASE WHICH WILL NOT BE AFFECTED PROFOUNDLY BY EVENTS IN METROPOLE, AND DELEGATES HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR IN MACAU PRESS CONFERENCE. ELECTIONS TO BE HELD THERE WILL NOT BE OVER QUESTION OF ENCLAVE'S FUTURE, BUT TO PICK LOCAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES. IN CONTRAST, TIMOR, WHICH IS A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PORTUGAL AND OF LITTLE VALUE, WILL APPARENTLY BE GIVEN CHANCE TO CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE, AND MAY EVEN BE HURRIED ALONG BY THE GOP. SCOTT

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